

THE JACKAL
By Walter Joseph Delaney

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Vere Dalton was a cad and knew it, but concealed it from others. Ruth Eastley was a charming, trustful girl of 18 and did not fathom his true character. They had formerly lived in the same town and when they met in the city that fact served to renew their old-time friendship.

A bluffer as well as a cad, Dalton impressed Ruth with the idea that he was destined to become a leading business man eventually. He always managed to dress well, no matter at what tailor's cost. He had not made love to Ruth, nor was she otherwise than dazzled with him, but he led her to believe that he preferred her company to that of any other young lady, and she believed it and liked him, and had he been in earnest he might have finally won her deepest regard.

Ruth had lost a good position as a stenographer through the failure of the firm she was working for. She had a typewriter, however, and secured some copying and did a little literary work. That was her bent, and, although she had so far only sold two short, low-priced sketches, she felt encouraged.

"I can get you some work to do if you care to handle it," observed Dalton, in an offhand manner one evening when he called on her.

"I shall be glad," said Ruth gratefully.

"It's this way," went on Dalton, and his eyes were shifty—"I have a friend who is getting out biographical sketches of leading business men. He has the notes of their record and that like, and wants them written up well into about 500 words each. There's about twenty to do each week. What's it worth?"

"Is it anything to you, Vere?" inquired Ruth pointedly.

"Well, you see, why, yes, it is—indirectly," lied Dalton. "I don't

think he will pay much—perhaps five dollars a week."

"I would be glad to take the commission," declared Ruth, "that is, if I can suit him."

"Oh, I'll vouch for that," said Dalton, and looked immensely pleased.

He might well say so! Here were the facts: As Dalton had said, some one was getting up a biographical work and had hired him as one of a number to visit those selected to fig-



Many a Time Ruth Sat Up Half the Night.

ure in the book, interview them and get the main points in their business career. This Dalton could do very well, but when it came to writing up the biographies he was all at sea. This he was required to do, three to five a day, as part of his duties as a salaried employee at \$30 per week.

There was no objection to his doing his writing at home, where he had a typewriter and could think and